



## KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### OCTOBER BOARD NOTES

(NOTE: The agenda and materials for all Kentucky Board of Education meetings can be found on the board's online materials site at: <http://portal.ksba.org/public/Agency.aspx?PublicAgencyID=4388&AgencyTypeID=1>. Also, a recording of the October 7 session can be found at <http://education.ky.gov/KBE/meet/Pages/default.aspx>.)

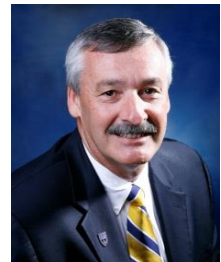
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#### Volume 22, No. 4 -- Report of the October 6-7, 2014, Regular Meeting

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##### ***COMMENTS FROM ROGER L. MARCUM, KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIR***

My reflections from the October Kentucky Board of Education are two-fold. First, the state board spent a large part of its morning session on October 7 reviewing the potential list of changes to the accountability system (20 items). It was extremely helpful to have superintendents' feedback that was submitted both electronically and at the Superintendents' Summit on these potential changes. Your input and that of the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council as well as other constituents gave the board a broader perspective from administrators and practitioners across the state who are implementing the system. We thank you for taking the time to give us this information and we will be looking at potential regulatory language on those changes we directed staff to pursue over the next two state board meetings.



Second, Commissioner Holliday's evaluation session was incorporated into the October meeting and consisted of state board members talking in an open meeting about the degree of progress submitted in his self-evaluation as well as an interactive session dialoguing with him about strengths and areas for growth. The goals in his self-evaluation are aligned with the board's strategic plan and were mutually agreed upon the year before.

The evaluation process provided the opportunity for members to pose questions in areas where clarification was needed and to have open, honest dialogue about how to improve student achievement and outcomes. The commissioner will come back in December with goals for the board to review that will address the areas for growth as well as any other areas that he deems important.

I certainly encourage all superintendents and their local boards to engage in similar conversations to ensure that a good analysis of the progress that has occurred as well as the areas where additional work must occur is the basis for setting future goals and plans. The focus must be on continuous improvement in a collaborative manner. We are all in this for the same purpose, our students!

### ***POTENTIAL CHANGES TO ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM DISCUSSED***

At its October 7 session, the Kentucky Board of Education reviewed a list of 20 possible changes to the Unbridled Learning accountability system. Associate Commissioner Ken Draut led the discussion and emphasized that the intent of any changes is to downplay disincentives unintentionally created by the current model, provide stronger incentives for school and district improvement and address perceptions of fairness on some calculations. He noted that the list of changes had been reviewed extensively over the summer and fall by a variety of constituencies.

The board asked staff to bring back proposed regulatory language in December to:

- track the performance of alternative school students to districts if a student has never attended another school in the district
- base a school's and district's Annual Measurable Objective for improvement on only the components of Next Generation Learners (achievement, gap, growth, graduation and college/career-readiness)
- report successful completion of dual credit, International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement courses in the School Report Card
- raise the graduation rate that schools must meet to exit Priority or Focus School status
- create a new way to identify Focus Schools by creating a minimal cut score for each gap group
- adjust the weights of Next-Generation Learners at the elementary level to better balance the distribution of growth, gap, and achievement (current weights are 40 percent growth and 30 percent each for gap and achievement)

Proposed regulatory changes dealing with the accountability model will have their first reading in December and the second reading in February.

For more information on this topic, contact Associate Commissioner Ken Draut at (502) 564-2256, ext. 4728 or via e-mail at [ken.draut@education.ky.gov](mailto:ken.draut@education.ky.gov).

### ***NEW SOCIAL STUDIES AND ARTS STANDARDS REVIEWED***

The Kentucky Board of Education conducted its first reading of 704 KAR 3:303, Kentucky Academic Standards in October for the purpose of considering the addition of new social studies and arts/humanities standards. These new standards, aligned to college- and career-readiness, are required by Senate Bill 1 (2009).

Kentucky Department of Education staff indicated that for social studies, 15 anchor standards at each grade level are arranged around four disciplinary core concepts: civic mindedness, historical thinking, geographic reasoning and economic decision-making. Additionally, the standards focus on deeper learning and inquiry, not just the memorization of historical facts.

Staff noted that the proposed standards encourage students to make connections to the world around them and apply their knowledge and skills. Kentucky educators wrote the standards, informed by the *C3 Framework, How Students Learn: History in the Classroom*, and other publications including the *Global Competence Matrix* and *P21 Skills*.

Regarding the arts/humanities standards, department staff explained that the standards are built on four artistic processes – creating; performing, presenting and producing; responding; and connecting – and 11 overarching anchor standards in five disciplines: dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts. The proposed arts and humanities standards include discipline-specific performance standards. The National Coalition for Core Arts Standards, led by Kentucky educator Phil Shepherd, developed the new standards and involved more than 70 writers with the input of more than 6,000 reviewers.

Both sets of standards must come back to the board for a second reading before moving forward to the public hearing and legislative committee review process.

For more information on this topic, contact Division Director Karen Kidwell at (502) 564- 2106, ext. 4139 or via e-mail at [Karen.kidwell@education.ky.gov](mailto:Karen.kidwell@education.ky.gov).

### ***COMMISSIONER’S EVALUATION CONDUCTED***

On the evening of October 6, the state board met in open session to discuss Commissioner Terry Holliday’s self-evaluation that had been submitted to them in advance of the meeting. The self-evaluation addressed progress on the goals that the board and commissioner agreed on last year.

A summary of the discussion was shared with Holliday the next day in open session. Strengths included communication, gains in the measures of college- and career-readiness and graduation rate, implementation of the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System, implementation of the Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System and Intervention Tab to track student interventions, securing the ESEA waiver extension, promotion and sharing of best practices through a statewide system, conducting the Kentucky Core Academic Challenge, and selection as the President of the Council of Chief State School Officers and NASBE Policy Leader of the Year award winner. A five-year progress report submitted as an addendum to the self-evaluation received praise in that it gave a long-term view of the state’s progress.

As far as areas for growth, Commissioner Holliday was asked to continue the pursuit of productive, mutual relationships, based on listening and mutual respect; and redouble the focus on strategies for closing the achievement gap and improving proficiency since the targets for these measures were not achieved. The board stated that while good progress was achieved in these areas, due to their importance, continued emphasis must occur.

In a summary statement, Chair Roger Marcum said, “The board strongly supports your continued tenure as commissioner and believes you are the right person at the right time to move Kentucky education forward.” A formal written evaluation will be presented to the commissioner at the next board meeting on December 3 in Frankfort. The commissioner also will present his goals for improvement for the 2014-15 school year that respond to the areas for growth pointed out by the board.

For more information on this topic, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840 or via e-mail at [maryann.miller@education.ky.gov](mailto:maryann.miller@education.ky.gov).

### ***RHONDA SIMS CHOSEN AS KEVIN M. NOLAND AWARD WINNER***

Rhonda Sims, Division Director of Assessment Support and Research within the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) Office of Assessment and Accountability, was presented with the Kevin M. Noland Award at the board's October meeting. This is an internal KDE recognition of an employee for significant service to Kentucky's public schools and for providing inspiration for education. Nominations are made by KDE staff.

The Kentucky Board of Education established the Kevin M. Noland Award to honor former Interim Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Associate Commissioner and General Counsel Kevin M. Noland, who served the department for approximately 18 years.

"Rhonda has a way of explaining complicated issues in an understandable way," Chair Roger Marcum said. "Her expertise is sought by other offices within KDE and by outside agencies. Rhonda's professionalism, enthusiasm, dedication and loyalty to the Department of Education, Office of Assessment and Accountability and stakeholders are immeasurable assets that define the reason she should be the recipient of the Kevin M. Noland Award."

Sims manages 12 staff members whose work is focused on the statewide academic assessments of more than 500,000 Kentucky students. They provide support to and communicate closely with the state's 173 local District Assessment Coordinators (DACs). She also provides support and guidance to state and local education administrators, vendors and the public.

Sims grew up in Casey County, graduated from Eastern Kentucky University and taught social studies at the Model Laboratory School at ECU before coming to KDE in 1998. She is married to Jay Roberts, a retired KDE educator.

For more information on this award, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840 or via e-mail at [maryann.miller@education.ky.gov](mailto:maryann.miller@education.ky.gov).

### ***OTHER ITEMS APPROVED BY THE BOARD IN OCTOBER WERE:***

- Minutes from the August 6-7 regular meeting and August 26 special meeting
- Support of the commissioner's decision for the 2014-15 school year regarding the Warren County/Bowling Green Independent Nonresident Student Appeal
- Statement of Consideration for 702 KAR 1:160, School Health Services
- Statement of Consideration for 703 KAR 5:260, Intervention Options in Priority Schools and Districts
- Final Order from the August 26 Breathitt County Hearing
- 705 KAR 4:250, Energy Technology Engineering Career Pathway (Second Reading)
- Kentucky Schools for the Blind and Deaf Facilities Policy
- New District Facilities Plans: Cumberland County and Middlesboro Independent School Districts
- District Facility Plan Amendments: Ashland Independent, Bullitt County, Danville Independent and Jefferson County School Districts

- 2014-15 Local District Tax Rates Levied
- Site approval for additional properties for the proposed Phelps High School Athletic Fields
- Waiver Request of Section 2 (1-9) of 702 KAR 6:090, for All School Districts
- Travel of Roger Marcum to the American Youth Policy Forum in December

***OTHER ITEMS REVIEWED IN OCTOBER WITH NO ACTION TAKEN WERE:***

- Appointment of Mary Gwen Wheeler as the board's voting delegate at the NASBE conference and Bill Twyman as the alternate
- Professional Growth and Effectiveness System Update
- Status Update on School Districts in State Assistance
- Kentucky Board of Education's Legislative Agenda
- Hearing Officer's Report on Regulations
- Kentucky Schools for the Blind and Deaf Update
- 702 KAR 3:320, Finance Officer Certification (First Reading)
- Audit Update and Review of the Commissioner's and Board's Expenses
- KDE Employment Reports (All offices and Office of Career and Technical Education)

***MEETING DATES FOR 2014, 2015 AND 2016***

**KBE Meeting Dates 2014**

December 3, 2014	Regular meeting	Frankfort
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**KBE Meeting Dates for 2015**

February 4, 2015	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 1, 2015	Regular meeting	Frankfort
June 3, 2015	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 5-6, 2015	KBE Retreat and Regular Meeting	Frankfort
October 5-6, 2015	Commissioner's Evaluation Discussion and Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 9, 2015	Regular meeting	Frankfort

**KBE Meeting Dates for 2016**

February 3, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 13, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort
June 8, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 3-4, 2016	KBE Retreat and Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 4-5, 2016	Commissioner's Evaluation Discussion and Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 7, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort

For more information on the board's meeting dates, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840 or via e-mail at [maryann.miller@education.ky.gov](mailto:maryann.miller@education.ky.gov).

*The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the October 6-7, 2014, regular meeting, conducted in Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky Board of Education, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

*For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Kentucky Board of Education Executive Director, at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840.*

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